

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STUTTG 00553 221600Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 TRSE-00  
L-03 /058 W

-----085293 230424Z /62

R 221500Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4235  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0553

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB GW  
SUBJECT: IG METAL STRIKE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG

REF: STUTTGART 485

1. FOLLOWING AN APPARENT BREAKDOWN LAST SUNDAY IN WAGE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IG METALL AND THE METAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION IN NORTH WUERTTEMBERG AND NORTH BADEN, EMPLOYERS ON MARCH 20 ORDERED A RETALIATORY LOCKOUT IN 78 FIRMS WITH OVER 1000 EMPLOYEES, PUTTING 146,000 PERSONS OUT OF WORK. ALTHOUGH THE LOCKOUT HAD NOT BEEN UNEXPECTED, IG METALL LEADER STEINKUEHLER REACTED QUITE STRONGLY TO THE ACTION, CALLING IT AN ILLEGAL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY HIS UNION'S ABILITY TO STRIKE BY DEPLETING ITS STRIKE FUNDS. HE HAS CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS AT AFFECTED FIRMS, AND IS THREATENING LEGAL ACTION TO HALT THE LOCKOUT. STEINKUEHLER IS ACCUSING THE EMPLOYERS OF BLEEDING THE UNION DRY. WORKERS, HE CLAIMS, ARE ALWAYS THE UNDERDOGS, AND AS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STUTTG 00553 221600Z

LONG AS THE LOCKOUT CONTINUES IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE AS EQUALS. PARITY AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE REQUIRES AN END TO THE LOCKOUT.

2. NONETHELESS, IT APPEARS THE EMPLOYERS' ACTION MAY BE HAVING ITS DESIRED EFFECT OF FORCING THE UNION BACK TO THE TABLE. MODIFYING A POSITION TAKEN IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LOCKOUT,

STEINKUEHLER IS NOW STATING HE ONLY CONSIDERS THE TALKS WITH EMPLOYERS RECESSED, NOT TERMINATED. HE HAS CALLED ON BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG METAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LEADER HEINZ DUERR TO NAME THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. DUERR, HOWEVER, IS CALLING FOR AN INDUCEMENT FROM LABOR BEFORE MANAGEMENT WILL AGAIN ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. DUERR ACCUSES STEINKUEHLER OF SEEKING CONFRONTATION, NOT COMPROMISE. CLAIMING THE LOCKOUT TO BE ENTIRELY LEGAL (NOTE: HE IS PROBABLY CORRECT), DUERR IS ACCUSING STEINKUEHLER OF ACTING CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFUL BARGAINING.

3. EMPLOYERS ALREADY ESTIMATE THEIR LOSS COUNTRY-WIDE IN TURNOVER AT 150 MILLION DM A DAY. FIRMS OUTSIDE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, LARGELY IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, ARE NOW BEING FORCED TO GO ON "SHORT-WORK", AND MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER HAS CALLED ON BOTH SIDES TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF A LENGTH CONFRONTATION.

4. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE INCREASED RHETORIC, WE SEE PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES TO RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE BEFORE EASTER. THE UNION HAS A REAL AND LEGITIMATE FEAR OF THE EFFECT OF A PROLONGED LOCKOUT ON STRIKE FUND RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY OVER THE LONG EASTER HOLIDAY WEEKEND. THIS, AND THE LARGE TURNOVER LOSS TO EMPLOYERS, SUPPORT OUR VIEW, BACKED ALSO BY OUR SOURCES IN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED AS EARLY AS THE WEEK FOLLOWING EASTER. AS DISCUSSED REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STUTTG 00553 221600Z

MANAGEMENT STILL HAS THE UPPER EDGE ON RATIONALIZATION AND OTHER NON-WAGE ISSUES, AND WILL BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM IN THIS AREA. END COMMENT.MILLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** METALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STUTT00553  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780127-0675  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STUTTGART  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780335/aaaabdm0.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c04a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STUTTGART 485  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3233075  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IG METAL STRIKE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG  
**TAGS:** ELAB, GE  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c04a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014